



The Urban District of Audenshaw.

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# *ANNUAL REPORT*

OF THE

## **Medical Officer of Health**

*For the Year 1911.*

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THE URBAN DISTRICT OF AUDENSHAW.

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Area of District in Acres .....	1,165
Population 1901 (Census) .....	7,216
Population 1911 (Census) .....	7,978
Population 1911 (estimated to middle of year) .....	7,989
General Death Rate per thousand of population ...	13.76
Infant Death Rate per thousand births .....	130
Birth Rate per thousand of population .....	25.03

# THE URBAN DISTRICT OF AUDENSHAW.

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1911.

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GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1911.

### PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The district is flat, with a clayey subsoil. There are no rivers running directly through the area, but the river Tame forms the eastern boundary of the district.

The area is composed of a small well populated area, and a larger area which is somewhat rural in character, the land being used chiefly as meadow and pasture land, there being a small quantity of arable land. The district is almost devoid of trees.

The area of the district is 865.25 acres without water, and an area of 199.75 acres occupied by the Audenshaw Reservoirs belonging to the Manchester Corporation, making a total area of 1165 acres.

The population is chiefly an industrial one, the occupation of the people being somewhat varied, the chief among which are engineering, felt-hatting and subsidiary trades. There are also many colliers, cotton operatives and railway servants.

The amount of Poor-Law relief for the year was £131 4s. 0d., which is low compared with the rest of Ashton-under-Lyne Union. There is a fair amount of gratuitous medical relief obtained from the Ashton and District Infirmary and the Manchester Hospitals.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

There is an ample and constant supply of very pure water furnished by the Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge and Dukinfield Joint Waterworks Committee. The water is upland in character. There are no wells or springs used for drinking purposes.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The river Tame having passed through a thickly populated area is somewhat polluted before it reaches the district, but being situated at a distance from the populous part of the area, it does not affect the health of the inhabitants, it merely forms the eastern boundary of the district and is not polluted from the district.

The streams are not important, being only small and no sewage is now turned into them: the streams when near houses are mostly in culverts.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The district is well sewered on the combined system. The sewage is treated at the Dukinfield and Stalybridge Joint Sewage Works. The treatment chiefly consists in precipitation with lime and alumino-ferric and subsequent filtration in filter beds.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are at present four kinds of closet accommodation in the district, which are as follows :—

Privy Middens.....	879
Pail Closets .....	58
Fresh Water Closets ... ..	241
Waste Water Closets .....	802

The privy middens are now being rapidly converted into closets on the water-carriage system.

## SCAVENGING.

This is done by contract, the refuse being carted to low lying ground in the more rural part of the district.

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

During the year a large amount of work has been carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances (Mr. Dewhurst), and as a result of these inspections 6 legal notices and 74 informal notices of nuisances were served, and 215 nuisances have been remedied. Legal proceedings were taken in one case, and an order to abate the nuisance in three months was granted.

The following is a description of inspections, as supplied by the Inspector of Nuisances :—

Visits and re-visits to Infected Houses.....	225
Visits to Nightsoil Tip .....	40
Inspection of Factories and Workshops .....	296
Do.    Bakehouses .....	24
Do.    Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops ...	124
Do.    Slaughter Houses .....	35
Do.    Offensive Trades .....	18
Drains inspected and tested .. ..	276
Infected Houses disinfected .....	56
Smoke Observations taken .....	18

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED  
BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS

There are no lodging-houses or cellar dwellings in the district. There are two offensive trades in the area, they are Tripe-dressing and Fur-pulling ; they are both carried on in a satisfactory manner.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the Schools is good, and the water supply is the same as for the rest of the district.

On February 17th there were 78 names on the books of the Infants' Department at the Council School, Audenshaw Road, and of these only 40 were present, nearly all the absentees suffering from measles. In consequence the Infants' Department was closed for one month.

On March 14th, at the Wesleyan School Infants' Department, there were 136 names on the books, while only 77 attended, the bulk of the absentees suffering from measles, in consequence the Infants' Department was closed till April 7th.

On May 12th, at the Bridge Street School, there were on the books of the Infants' Department 80 names, of these five were away suffering from measles, and one, though unaffected, was away through measles, in consequence the Infants' Department was closed till May 29th.

On May 12th, at St. Stephen's School Infants' Department, there were on the books 157 names, of these 21 were away through measles and 13 away having mumps, in consequence the Infants' Department was closed till May 29th.

The Medical Inspection of School Children is carried out by the Lancashire County Council Education Committee.

FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*—Examinations into the quality of the milk supplied in the district are attended to by the County Police.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops in the district are in a satisfactory condition.

(b) *Other Foods.*—No unsound food has been found exposed for sale. The sanitary condition of places where foods are prepared, stored, or exposed for sale are in a satisfactory condition.

The Bakehouses are in a good condition and clean.

The Slaughter-houses in the district are all in good condition and well kept.

Frequent inspection of these are made whilst killing and meat dressing is going on.

(c) *Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.*—These Acts are carried out by the County Police.

#### HOUSING.

The housing accommodation of the district is sufficient for the needs of the people, and there is very little if any overcrowding. There is usually ample open air space about the houses, and the surroundings of the houses are kept in a cleanly condition.

The great majority of the houses are of the artizan dwelling class, a very large number consisting of two rooms upstairs and two rooms downstairs.

During the year 48 inspections were made under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, 1890 to 1909. Two representations were made to the Local Authority with a view to making closing orders, but the repairs were carried out by the owners previous to any order being made.

Ten old houses were demolished, and 8 new ones were built by the owner on the site of the previous 10, this being a great improvement, especially as the roadway was also widened at this point. The character of defects found to exist were general dilapidation.

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#### WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, &c.

These have been frequently visited during the year, and any nuisances found were remedied. The workshops, &c., are kept generally in a clean state.

### SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF DISTRICT.

Audenshaw is, with Ashton, Stalybridge, Hurst and Limehurst, a joint owner of the Smallpox Hospital at Hartshead. All other cases of infectious disease requiring treatment in hospital are sent to the Hyde Infectious Hospital ; two beds are retained, but more can be had if required.

There is no provision of hospital or sanatorium treatment for cases of tuberculosis.

For work carried out in Sanitary Department see table under Sanitary Inspections of District.

#### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The cases of Diphtheria were two isolated cases not living close together and could not in any case be attributable to a common source. In one case the diagnosis was confirmed bacteriologically.

The Scarlet Fever cases which occurred were scattered over the whole area, 18 being between the ages of 1 and 5 years, and 40 between the ages of 5 and 15 years. Many of the cases seemed to be due to needless neighbouring.

There was only one case of Enteric Fever reported during the year.

One case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum occurred, but it recovered completely.

Nearly all the cases of infectious disease in the district are treated at their own homes, the patients being kept in one room ; after the case has terminated the rooms are disinfected and sprayed with formalin.

Every case of infectious disease notified is visited, and directions given for its control as far as is possible.

Arrangements are now complete with the Ashton-under-Lyne Corporation for the disinfection by saturated steam of all clothing, bedding, &c., which has been used by an infected person.

### PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

Five cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year, each case was visited and enquiries were made as to what rooms were occupied by the patients, and they were all advised to allow the patients to have rooms to themselves, and advice was given as regards disposal of expectoration.

There is no Hospital or Sanatorium accommodation in the district for Tuberculosis.

### MEANS OF PREVENTING MORTALITY IN INFANCY.

During the hot weather each house in the district was supplied ~~with~~ a leaflet giving advice as to the prevention of Diarrhoea, especially amongst children.

### VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

*Birth Rate.*—During the year the number of births registered was 200, giving a birth rate of 25.03 per 1,000 of the population.

There were 97 males and 103 females. This is above the average for the 10 previous years

The following table gives the number of births registered in each of the last 10 years, with the birth rates for the corresponding years:—

Year.	No. of Births.	Birth Rate.
1901	150	20.7
1902	217	29.5
1903	180	24.2
1904	200	26.6
1905	182	24.06
1906	184	24.08
1907	186	24.2
1908	189	24.3
1909	186	23.7
1910	160	20.2
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Average for the years		
1901 to 1910 ...	183	24.13

The Census of the district taken on April 18th, 1911, proved the population to be 7978.

The population estimated to the middle of 1911 was 7989.

The number of illegitimate births registered was 5.

*Death Rate.*—The number of deaths registered in the district was 105, of these two were of individuals belonging to other districts, while seven were registered elsewhere belonging to this district, making the total number of deaths for the year to be 110.

This gives a death rate of 13.76 per 1,000.

The number of deaths of males and females were 66 and 44 respectively.

Comparing this number with the average for the last 10 years this will be found satisfactory.

The following table gives the number of deaths in each of the last ten years with the rate for each year.

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate.
1901	96	13.2
1902	126	17.1
1903	100	13.4
1904	108	14.3
1905	129	17.05
1906	108	14.13
1907	108	14.06
1908	113	14.58
1909	104	13.27
1910	87	10.86
Average for the years 1901 to 1910	107	14.19

## INFANT MORTALITY.

The number of deaths under one year was 26.

This gives a rate for the year of 130 per 1000 births.

The following table gives the number of infant deaths and infant death rates for each of the last 10 years :—

Year.	No. of Infant Deaths.	Infant Death Rate.
1901	23	153
1902	34	156
1903	23	127
1904	30	150
1905	31	170
1906	21	114
1907	26	139
1908	35	185
1909	27	144
1910	24	150
Average for the years	—	—
1901 to 1910	27	148

The causes of deaths of infants were :—

Whooping Cough	1
Diarrhoeal Disease	5
Premature Birth	2
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	6
Injury at Birth	2
Meningitis	1
Bronchitis	3
Pneumonia	4
Suffocation	1
Other Causes	1

The following table shows the causes of all deaths during the year, the ages being grouped in periods:—

Causes of Death.	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards
Enteric Fever ...	1 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 1 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0								
Measles ..... ....	2 ... 0 ... 2 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0								
Whooping Cough ...	1 ... 1 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0								
Diphtheria & Croup ...	2 ... 0 ... 0 ... 1 ... 1 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0								
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	3 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 1 ... 1 ... 1 ... 1 ... 0								
Tuberculosis									
Meningitis ...	2 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 1 ... 1 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0								
Other Tuberculosis Diseases ..	5 ... 0 ... 2 ... 1 ... 0 ... 1 ... 0 ... 1 ... 0 ... 1 ... 0								
Cancer (Malignant) ...	5 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 3 ... 2								
Bronchitis ... ...	13 ... 3 ... 0 ... 1 ... 0 ... 0 ... 1 ... 1 ... 1 ... 7								
Broncho-Pneumonia .....	5 ... 2 ... 0 ... 0 ... 1 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 2								
Pneumonia (all other forms) ..	5 ... 2 ... 0 ... 1 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 2 ... 0 ... 0								
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs .. ....	1 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 1 ... 0								
Diarrhoea and Enteritis .....	5 ... 5 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0								
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	5 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 2 ... 3								
Congenital Debility and Malformation	8 ... 8 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0								
(incl. Prem. Births)									
Violent Deaths... (excluding Suicide)	5 ... 1 ... 0 ... 2 ... 0 ... 1 ... 0 ... 1 ... 0								
Other Defined Diseases	34 ... 2 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 1 ... 3 ... 16 ... 12								
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ..	8 ... 2 ... 1 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 1 ... 4								
All Causes ..	110	26	5	6	3	5	8	27	30

## ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The seven principal zymotic diseases are Smallpox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea and Enteric Fever.

These diseases caused 11 deaths, *i.e.*, Measles 2, Diphtheria 2, Enteric Fever 1, Whooping Cough 1, Diarrhoea 5.

The Zymotic death rate was 1.37 per 1,000 of population.

The smallness of the number of deaths among infants is very satisfactory considering the long hot summer.

The number of notifications of infectious disease received during the year was 75. This table shows the number of cases of each disease, and the age period in which the cases occurred.

		At									
Disease.	all Ages.	under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65				
Diphtheria ...	2	...	0	.. 1	0	...	1	...	0	...	0
Erysipelas.....	4	...	0	.. 1	0	...	1	...	1	...	1
Scarlet Fever..	62	...	0	.. 18	40	...	2	...	2	...	0
Enteric Fever.	1	..	0	.. 0	0	...	0	...	1	...	0
Phthisis .....	5	...	0	.. 0	1	...	4	..	0	...	0
Ophthalmia											
Neonatorum.	1	...	1	.. 0	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
Totals.....	<u>75</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>		<u>1</u>		

The following table gives a comparison of the infectious cases notified during the past 8 years.

	1911.	1910.	1909.	1908.	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	
Diphtheria .....	2	...	5	.. 1	8	.. 4	.. 4	.. 2	.. 7
Erysipelas .....	4	...	2	.. 0	2	.. 2	.. 2	.. 3	.. 5
Scarlet Fever...	62	...	68	.. 48	47	.. 23	.. 60	.. 81	.. 46
Enteric Fever...	1	..	6	.. 7	5	.. 2	.. 4	.. 20	.. 3
Puerperal Fever	0	...	1	.. 1	0	.. 1	.. 0	.. 2	.. 0
Smallpox. ....	0	...	0	.. 0	0	.. 0	.. 3	.. 2	.. 2
Phthisis .....	5	...	0	.. 0	0	.. 0	.. 0	.. 0	.. 0
Ophthalmia									
Neonatorum...	1	...	2	.. 0	0	.. 0	.. 0	.. 0	.. 0
	<u>75</u>		<u>84</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>63</u>

## SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS DURING 1911.

During the past year a number of privy middens have been converted to the water-carriage system.

Arrangements have now been completed with Ashton-under-Lyne, whereby all clothing, bedding, &c., from cases of infectious diseases, will be disinfected with saturated steam. This will supply a long-felt want in the district.

## CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENT.

The chief sanitary requirement of the district is the abolition of Privy Middens. I am glad to say that conversions will proceed at a much greater speed during the coming year.

I am, yours obediently,

D. HUBERT CHEETHAM, M.B., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

*March 7th, 1912.*



